

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 EPA-01
NSF-01 DLOS-09 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-05
CEQ-01 ACDA-12 PM-05 DODE-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05
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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WLSULLIVAN:MJB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WLSULLIVAN
EA/J - MR. BROWN
EUR/SOV - MR. WINDSOR
COMM/NOAA - MR. THOMPSON (SUB)
OES/APT/SEP - MR. CRAMER
OES/ENP/EN - DR. KING
L/OES - MRS. HOINKES
EPA - MR. SHOSTAL (SUB)

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC HONALULU HAWAII 0058

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086092

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: JA, US, UR, PBOR, SENV, TOCY

SUBJECT: GOJ OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED US-USSR TSUNAMI
PROJECT IN VICINITY OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES

REF: (A) TOKYO 4559 (B) STATE 55596 MAR 77 (C) MOSCOW 5565
(D) STATE 77064

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1. DEPT FAILS UNDERSTAND WHY 3-5 KILOMETER QUESTION HAS
AGAIN ARISEN SINCE EXISTING DOCUMENTATION REFLECTS EARLIER
PLANNING BEFORE PROBLEM WAS RAISED A YEAR AGO. AS NOTED
REF B, NOAA INTENDS RENEGOTIATE PLANS WITH USSR COUNTER-
PART FOR OPEN OCEAN SEISMIC EXPERIMENT SO THAT IT CON-
DUCTED OUTSIDE OF 12 MILES FROM SHIKOTAN ISLAND. ALTHOUGH
DETAILED PLANS WILL NOT BE WORKED OUT WITH SOVIETS UNTIL

MAY, IT STILL NOAA INTENT THAT EXPERIMENT BE CONDUCTED MORE THAN 12 MILES FROM SHIKOTAN. WHILE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO INCLUDE SOME DATA FROM WITHIN 12 MILES, NO TECHNICAL REASON WHY EXPERIMENT CANNOT BE CONDUCTED OUTSIDE 12. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOVIETS MAY UTILIZE DATA FROM INSTRUMENTS ALREADY DEPLOYED OFF SHIKOTAN IN WORKING UP DATA FROM EXPERIMENT. IF SO, INSTRUMENTS WOULD NOT BE DEPLOYED BY RESEARCH VESSEL CONDUCTING PROJECT AND U.S. PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE NO DIRECT CONNECTION TO THEM.

2. EMB SHOULD RE-ASSURE GOJ ALONG LINES PARA 1 AND RE-AFFIRM USG EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S LONGSTANDING CLAIM TO THESE ISLANDS. AT SAME TIME BECAUSE OF POINT RAISED PARA 3 REF A EMB SHOULD REMIND GOJ THAT U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THAT ANY STATE HAS JURISDICTION OVER WATER COLUMN MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MORE THAN THREE MILES FROM COAST. THUS, DECISION TO RELOCATE RESEARCH MORE THAN 12 MILES FROM SHIKOTAN WAS BASED ENTIRELY ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER RESEARCH WITHIN 12 UNLESS IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE CARRIED TO WITHIN 3 NAUTICAL MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, WHICH IS NOT RPT NOT PLANNED.

3. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY EXISTS GOJ CLEARANCE MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIRED EVEN WITH PROJECT CONDUCTED OUTSIDE 12 SINCE IT APPEARS THAT U.S. OCEAN BOTTOM SEISMOGRAPHS (OBS) WILL BE DEPLOYED ON JAPANESE CONTINENTAL SHELF. IN THIS CONNECTION, USG WOULD CONSIDER SHELF OFF SHIKOTAN AS BEING JAPANESE. CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION 1958 PROVIDES QTE COASTAL STATE SHALL NOT NORMALLY WITHHOLD ITS CONSENT UNQTE FOR SUCH RESEARCH. EMB ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY GOJ REACTION TO SUCH CLEARANCE REQUEST IS REQUESTED. IN YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY MENTION THIS POSSIBILITY IN LOW-KEY MANNER TO GOJ AND SEEK REACTION. FYI: ORDINARILY U.S. WOULD EXPECT FLAG STATE OF RESEARCH VESSEL, I.E. SOVIETS, TO OBTAIN NECESSARY CLEARANCES FOR RESEARCH PROJECT. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, USG MAY MAKE REQUEST DIRECTLY TO GOJ TO SIDESTEP USSR CLAIM TO SHIKOTAN. REQUEST COULD BE JUSTIFIED IN ANY CASE BY FACT LAND CLOSEST TO NEAREST INSHORE OBS WOULD BE HOKKAIDO (BUT OUTSIDE 12). NOAA EXPECTS OBS INSTRUMENTS TO BE DEPLOYED FROM ABOUT 200 TO ABOUT 6000 METERS, SOME OF WHICH THUS WOULD BE ON JAPANESE SHELF END FYI. ALL RESULTS WILL BE FULLY AVAILABLE TO GOJ.

4. NOAA DOES NOT UNDERSTAND REFERENCE TO OTHER EXPERI-

MENTS WITHIN 12 MILES OF HOKKAIDO (PARENTHETICAL IN
PARA 3 REF A). NO EXPERIMENTS ARE PLANNED WITHIN 12 MILES
IN THIS PROJECT. THOMPSON RECALLS HE MENTIONED THAT
SOVIETS MAY BE PLANNING OTHER EXPERIMENTS DURING R/V
CRUISE, BUT IF SO THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH JOINT
US-USSR PROJECT AND IF WITHIN 12 MILES OF HOKKAIDO WOULD
BE UP TO USSR TO OBTAIN GOJ CLEARANCE. (USSR ALSO CLAIMS
12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND DOES NOT HAVE SAME RECOGNITION
PROBLEM AS U.S. MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE.)

5. AS RECOMMENDED BY EMB MOSCOW IN REF C, WE PLAN TO
REQUEST FROM THE SOVIETS A CRUISE PLAN OF THE SOVIET R/V.

U.S. SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATING ON THE CRUISE OF THE SOVIET
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R/V WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED. VANCE

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